(vii) Medical expenses formed 7% of total consumer expenditure in rural India and 5% in urban India,

(viii) Educational expenses formed 3% of total consumer expenditure in rural India and 5% in urban India,

(ix) Conveyance expenses formed 4% of total consumer expenditure in rural India and 7% in urban India.

(x) Average quantity of cereals consumed per person per month in 2004-05 was 12.1 kg in rural areas and 9.9 kg in urban areas.

(xi) Average value of cereals consumed per person per month was Rs. 101 in rural India and Rs. 106 in urban India.

(c) The government has adopted a three pronged strategy to improve the living standard of the poor in rural areas: (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti-poverty programmes. In the rural areas, the main programmes which are being implemented by the Government for upliftment of poor families are (i) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), (ii) Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), (iii) Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), and (iv) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

Tansparency in NKC

1880. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vice-Chairman of the National Knowledge Commission, has accused in January, 2007 the Penal of lacking transparency;

(b) if so, how the basic objectives envisaged while setting up the National Knowledge Commission, would be achieved, when during the year 2006 two Members, had resigned on the issue of providing 27 per cent reservations for other backward classes;

(c) whether the Hon'ble P.M. or Minister of HRD made special efforts to

ensure achievement of basic objectives of National Knowledge Commission; and

(d) if so, the final outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Vice Chairman has sent some comments and suggestions on the National Knowledge Commission's (NKC) recommendations on various issues in January, 2007.

(b) to (d) The NKC has been set up to advice the Government on building excellence in the area of knowledge to meet the challenges of the 21st century and increase India's competitive edge in the field of knowledge. Two members had resigned on personal grounds during 2006, but the Commission did submit its reports later that year. The recommendations of the Commission will provide a blue print for transforming India into a knowledge society. These have been referred to the concerned Ministries for examination.

Weeding out Centrally Funded Schemes

1881. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to weed out certain Centrally Funded Schemes with a view to enhance allocation to other centrally funded projects especially under Rural Development Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the status of implementation of Natinal Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) project in Orissa;

(d) whether the Orissa State has requested for inclusion of more districts under this projects; and

(e) if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Some Plan Schemes are discontinued